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ST. NEOTS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Surveyor & Chief Sanitary
Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1953

ST. NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953

by

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

Your obedient servant,

J. CALDWELL.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

M. M. MARKHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. (Resigned 30th April, 1954).

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H. (Commenced 14th June, 1954).

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

WILLIAM C. MORGAN, M.I.S.T.E., F.I.S.E. (M.R.S.I.). (Resigned Sept. 1953).

S. D. COX., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E. (Commenced July, 1953).

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

F. JACKSON. A.R.S.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 1,391 acres. St. Neots 996, Eynesbury 395.

ESTIMATED POPULATION : Mid 1952, 4,944 ; Mid 1953, 5,073

ST. NEOTS :

Private Houses	..	..	..	..	..	669	
Shops, etc., with private houses attached	..	..				73	
							742

EYNESBURY :

Private Houses	..	..	..	..	..	316	
Shops, etc., with private houses attached	..	..				11	
							327
							1069

RATEABLE VALUE :

As at 31st December, 1953 : £29,535.

Product of a Penny Rate : £112.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

	M.	F.	Total	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population	..	
Legitimate	.. 36	40	76		..	16.0
Illegitimate	.. 2	3	5	(Ditto for England and Wales)	..	15.5
Total	.. 38	43	81			

STILLBIRTHS

Legitimate	..	.	.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	..	—
Illegitimate	..	.	.	(Ditto for England and Wales)	..	22.4
Total	..	.	.

DEATHS (ALL AGES)

	20	21	41	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	..	8.1
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	..	11.4

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate
Illegitimate

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	—
(Ditto for England and Wales)	..	..	..	26.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..			—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..			—

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's List).

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.. —	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	.. —	—
3	Syphilitic	.. —	—
4	Diphtheria	.. —	—
5	Whooping cough	.. —	—
6	Meningococcal infections	.. —	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	.. —	—
8	Measles	.. 1	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.. —	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.. —	—
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.. —	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.. —	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.. —	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.. 2	—
15	Leukaemia, aleukeamia	.. —	1
16	Diabetes	.. —	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.. 1	2
18	Coronary disease, angina	.. 3	1
19	Hypertension with heart disease	.. 1	1
20	Other heart disease	.. 4	4
21	Other circulatory diseases	.. —	1
22	Influenza	.. —	5
23	Pneumonia	.. —	—
24	Bronchitis	.. 1	—
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	.. 2	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.. —	—
27	Gastritis, enteris and diarrhoea	.. —	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	.. —	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	.. 1	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.. —	—
31	Congenital malformations	.. —	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.. 3	5
33	Motor vehicle accidents	.. —	—
34	All other accidents	.. 1	—
35	Suicide	.. —	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	.. —	—
	Total all causes	.. 20	21

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The following Laboratory facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area :

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.), Tennison Rd.,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

(i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. Tel. Huntingdon 348.

(ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease. Tel. Huntingdon 59.

(c) Home Nursing.

Two nurse-midwives, living in St. Neots (Tel. St. Neots 215), employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council, carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the district.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(i) The following Health Services, provided by the Huntingdon County Council, were available :

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month (M.O. present). Every other Thursday, School Nurse only. 10—11.30 a.m. Every Monday, 9.30—10.30 a.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots. Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0—5 years)	Every Thursday and Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
Dental	Pre-School and School- children. Pre-Natal and Nursing Mothers.	1st Thursday in month, 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—3.30 p.m.	Red Cross Room, High St., St. Neots.

(ii) The following Health Services are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council :

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and School- children.	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appoint- ment, except in emergency). 10 a.m.— 12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Orthopaedic	Pre-School- and School- children.	2nd and 4th Tues- days in month (Sur- geons by appoint- ment). 10 a.m.—12 noon.	Old Grammar School Huntingdon.
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(iii) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages.	Every Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3—7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4—6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
		Males:	
		Mondays, 5.30—7 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30—7 p.m.	Out- Patient Department,
		Females:	Memorial Hospital.
		Tuesdays, 10.30—12 noon, Thursdays, 5.30—7 p.m.	Peter- borough.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Fever.—Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provided facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total cases Notified.
Scarlet Fever	.. 29
Whooping Cough	.. 22
Diphtheria	.. —
Measles	.. 202
Acute Pneumonia	.. 5
Puerperal Pyrexia	.. —
Typhoid Fever	.. —
Erysipelas	.. 2
Acute Poliomyelitis	.. 2
Food Poisoning	.. 2
Infective Hepatitis	.. 6
	—
	270

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1		1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	5	27	1	—	—	—	2	—	35
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	5

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31.12.53 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1953	1—4 1952-1949	5—9 1948-1944	10—14 1943-1939	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1949—1953	1	180	237	208	626
B. 1948 or earlier	—	—	118	151	269

TUBERCULOSIS.

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1953 : 19

Pulmonary : 9

Non-Pulmonary : 10

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Res.		Respiratory.		Non-Res.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0						
1						
5						
10						
15						
20						
25						
35						
45		1				
55						
65 & upwards								
Totals	..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR FOR
1953.**

To the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Madam,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report recording the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyors for the year 1953.

My duties commenced on the 1st July, 1953, and during this year some re-organisation was carried out with a view to ensuring that the Department functioned in an efficient manner.

In submitting the report, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees for their support, yourself, and other Officers of the Urban Council for their help, together with my own staff, for their work and duties.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

S. D. COX,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary
Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR, ETC.

Visits and Inspections Made 1953

Public Health Act

Houses inspected for nuisances	..	36
Verminous premises	..	2
Inspections, Disease enquiries and disinfection	..	35
Privies, ashpits, earth closets	..	22
Drainage inspections (old)	..	25
Re-visits and work in progress	..	32
Tents, vans, sheds, moveable dwellings	..	16
Smoke abatement	..	17
Streams and watercourses	..	14
Vacant land	..	27
Refuse and refuse collection	..	15
Visits to refuse tip	..	51
Council house maintenance	..	470
Byelaws—inspection of new work	..	179
Keeping animals	..	4
Offensive trades	..	2
Water supplies	..	19

Housing Acts

Houses inspected	..	49
Re-visits, etc.	..	16
Housing applications	..	21
Small Dwellings Acquisitions Acts	..	Nil
Improvement Grants	..	3

Factory Act

Factories and work places inspected	..	28
Outworkers' premises visited	..	9
Fire escape inspections	..	3

Shops Act

Shops inspected	..	10
-----------------	----	----

Food and Drugs Act, Etc.

Bakehouses	..	9
General food shops	..	26
Fried fish shops	..	8
Food preparing premises	..	10
Slaughterhouses	..	360
Public houses	..	6
Markets	..	69
Food inspection visits	..	15
Restaurants and cafes	..	6
Ice-cream premises	..	19
Dairies	..	16

Miscellaneous

Rats and mice (not including Rodent Operative)	..	10
Interviews generally	..	1320
Miscellaneous visits	..	310
Visits under Petroleum Acts	..	9
Total visits and inspections made	..	3298

Notices served and complied with 1953

Type of Notice	Served	Complied with	Out-standing
Public Health Act informal	20	16	4
Public Health Act formal	—	—	—
Housing Act informal	11	9	2
Housing Act formal	—	—	—
Factories Act informal	3	3	—
Food and Drugs Act informal	6	6	—
Milk and Dairies informal	—	—	—
Petroleum Acts informal	2	2	—

LICENCES ISSUED 1953

Slaughter of Animals Acts

Slaughterman's Licences	..	5
Game dealers' licences	..	6

Public Health Act

Slaughterhouse licences	..	1
Knackers Yard licences	..	1
Marine store dealers	..	3

Petroleum Acts

Storage licences (petrol)	..	23
Storage licences (carbide of calcium)	..	1
Storage licences (cellulose)	..	1
Storage licences (rubber solutions)	..	2

Food and Drugs Act Registrations

Storage and sale of ice cream	..	10
Manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream	..	2
Pressed, potted preserved meat, etc.	..	4

Milk (Special Designation) Regulation, 1949

Dealers' licences	..	4
Supplementary licences	..	2

Meat Inspection

Carcases inspected during the year 1953 at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Eynesbury:—

	Cattle inc. cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Total number slaughtered and inspected	1345	304	4097	3289	9035

Diseases other than tuberculosis

	Cattle inc. Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1. Whole carcasses condemned	26	5	7	29
2. Parts or organs condemned	350	8	41	157
3. Percentage affected	27.9	4.3	1.2	5.6

Carcases affected with tuberculosis

1. Whole carcasses condemned	18	—	—	14
2. Parts or organs condemned	320	—	—	208
3. Percentage affected	25.1	—	—	6.7

Other Foods Condemned

12 tins	tomatoes
27 tins	milk
4 tins	pineapples
2 x 29 oz.	guavas
5 tins	pears
2 tins	plums
8 tins	peaches
2 tins	stewed steak
1 tin	steak and vegetable
1 x 16 oz.	rabbit
5 tins	baked beans
7 tins	peas
1 tin	sardines
4 tins	pork luncheon meat
2 tins	veal, ham and tongue
21	Swiss rolls
3½ lbs.	cheese
38—4 oz.	cheese spread
13¾ lbs.	bacon
1 x 6½ lbs.	jellied veal
1 x 13 oz.	braised hearts

Food Premises

	No.
General Stores	.. 30
Fishmongers	.. 2
Dairies	.. 4
Butchers	.. 10
Bakeries	.. 6
Hotels	.. 6
Cafes	.. 4
Fish Friers	.. 3
Public Houses	.. 31
Greengrocers	.. 8
Confectionery	.. 17
Ice cream Premises	.. 12
Pie Manufacturers	.. 2
Maltsters	.. 1

Factories in Register

With Mechanical Power	.. 61
Without Mechanical Power	.. 6
Fire escape certificates issued	NU

Market Stalls

During this year 3,304 stalls were occupied, this figure being a considerable increase over the previous year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The joint scheme with the St. Neots Rural District Council continues to operate satisfactorily. The town's sewers have received treatments in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry.

New Buildings (Private)

During the year, 47 plans for new work were deposited, none rejected under the Building Byelaws. Supervision and inspection of the work under construction amounted to 179 visits.

New Council Houses

The following indicates progress during the year:—

Houses completed—

2 bedroomed	..	10
3 bedroomed	..	27

Under construction at end of year—

2 bedroomed	..	22
3 bedroomed	..	28

Sewerage

Towards the end of the year the Contractors for the new scheme of diverting river outfalls to a new pumping station and building a new disposal works, were beginning to assemble equipment, materials and buildings in preparation for the commencement of the work next year, this following the acceptance for a tender and Ministry approval.

During the months of September and October, Hen Brook became badly septic, due, undoubtedly, to the stagnant condition, lack of flow from the upper reaches and the two sewage outfalls. Fortunately, the rains of November reduced the nuisance before work could be put in hand to endeavour to achieve the same objective.

Also during the year serious blockage occurred in the surface water sewer in Bedford Street. The cause of the trouble was found to be a large quantity of grain having gained access due to a defect in the vats at a Malting in the vicinity.

The pump serving the Potton Road area has, over the year, given constant trouble. The Council's Consulting Engineers were asked to investigate and make suggestions for improvement.

Refuse

Following the wish of the owners of a former refuse tip to have a top soil to be placed on the site, the Council eventually purchased the land, which still has a large area of excavations usable for tipping.

The preparations necessary for making the area fit for tipping was nearing completion at the end of the year. Actual tipping should commence early next year.

The proximity of this land to the town should achieve a substantial saving in time and running costs as against present costs and time of taking refuse to Little Paxton, some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town, where a full-time attendant is necessary. This attendant will need only to be part-time on the nearer tip.

Scavenging—Roads

Consideration was given during the year to the desirability of the Council purchasing a mechanical road sweeper. Two neighbouring towns were approached with a view to their making use of the machine, to ensure full and economic use. Lack of full response from the towns concerned, together with running costs based on actual demonstrations, decided that the matter should be deferred.

S. D. COX,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

